A SPLENDID GIFT WITH THIS ISSUE!

8 Extra pages inside!

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24th Oct. 1992
No.131 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

A THOMAS GAME COUNTER FOR YOU!

2ND PART THOMAS FLOOR-GAME INSIDE!

PLUS NEW PRE-SCHOOL ERTL COMPETITION PART 1

43

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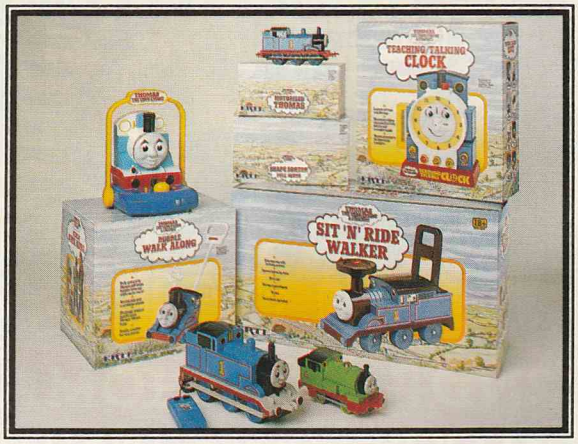
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine is a very splendid and useful engine! That is why the Fat Controller often asks Thomas to attend some very special events. In the story that begins on page 3, there is a very special event taking place on the Island of Sodor and Thomas will be given a very unusual task indeed! Peep! Peep!

FABULOUS PRIZES TO BE WON!

Turn to page **14** for your splendid chance to win some fabulous new prizes from a range of *pre-school* toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including **Night lights**, **Bubblewalkers** and **Shape sorters**! This is the first part of a two part competition!



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to:
The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

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.....

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THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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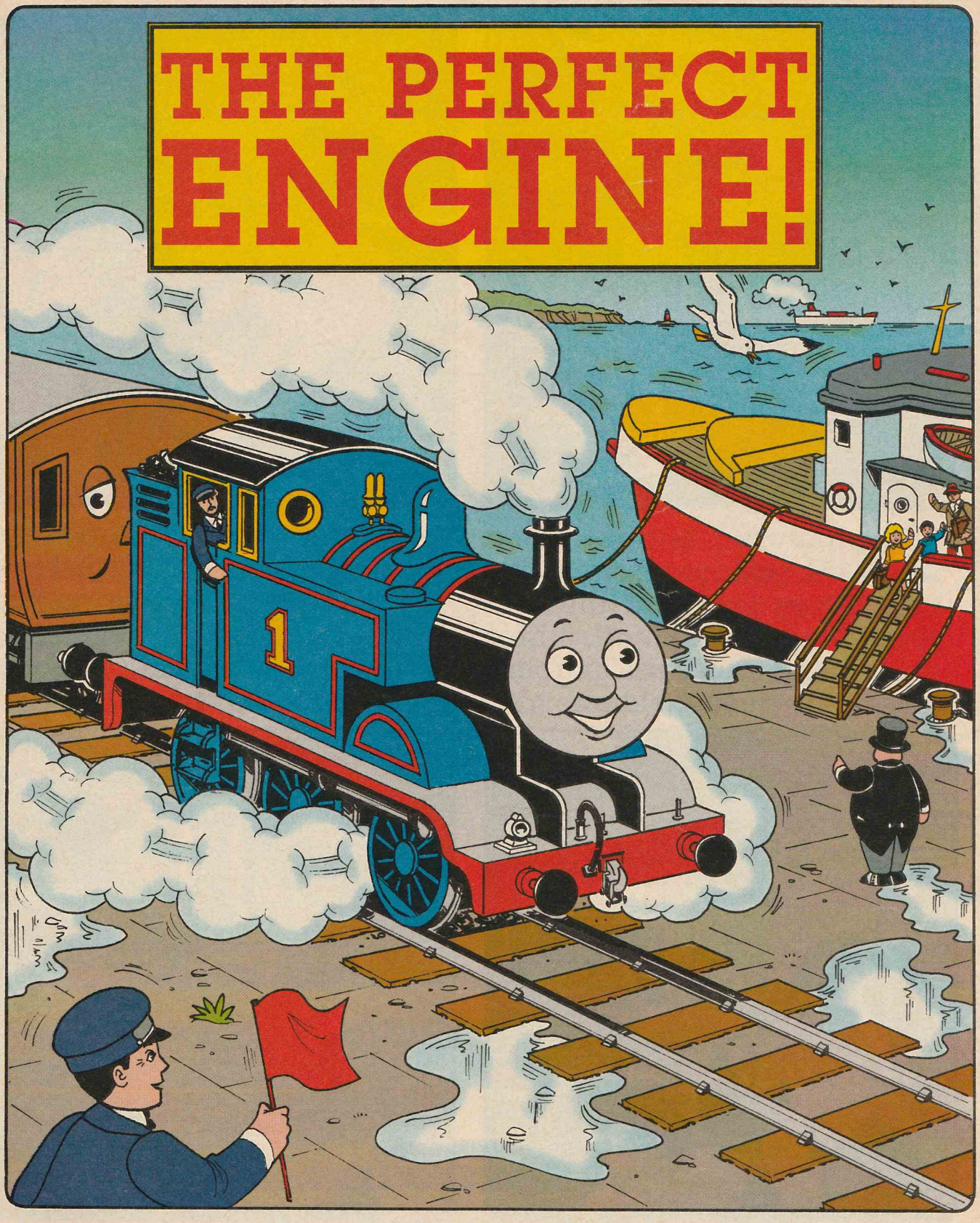
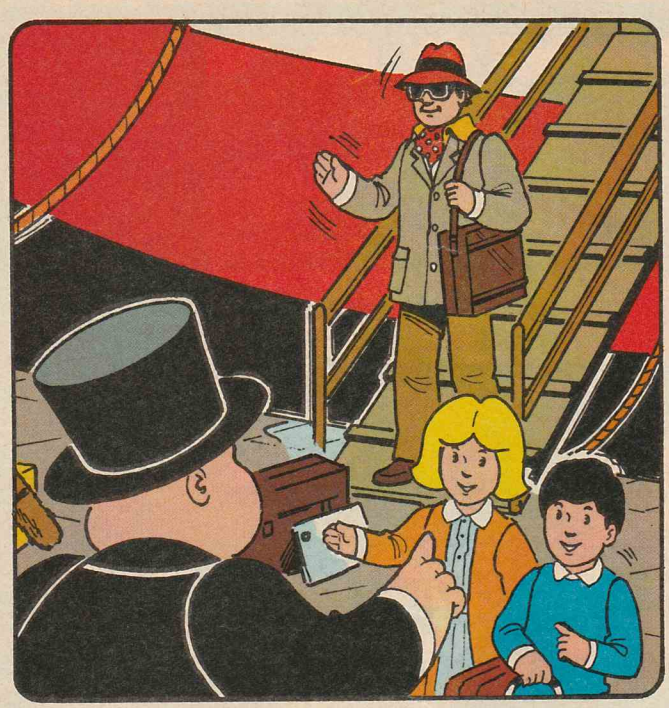
THE PERFECT ENGINE!

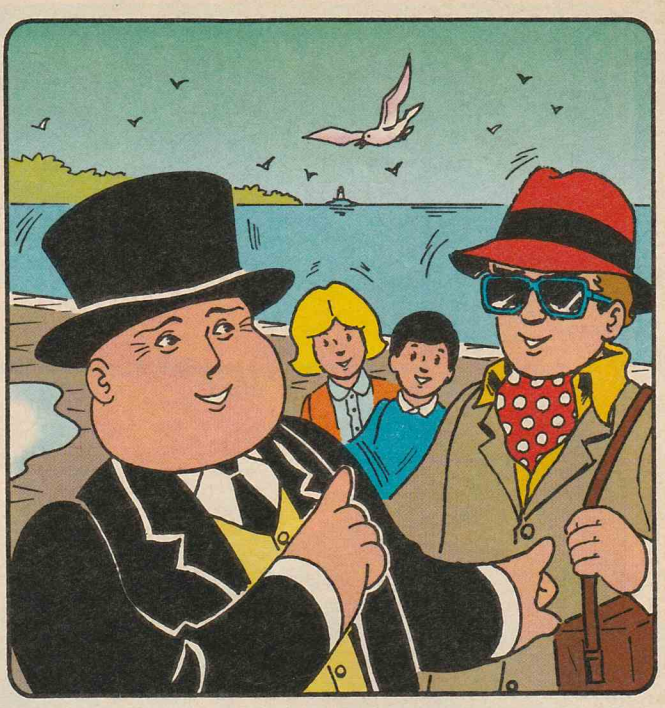


1. One morning, Thomas set off eagerly for the Big Harbour. He was taking the Fat Controller to meet his grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, who were staying for the weekend.

2. When Thomas arrived, the Fat Controller went to meet the boat bringing his grandchildren from the mainland. It was carrying a film crew with lots of cameras.

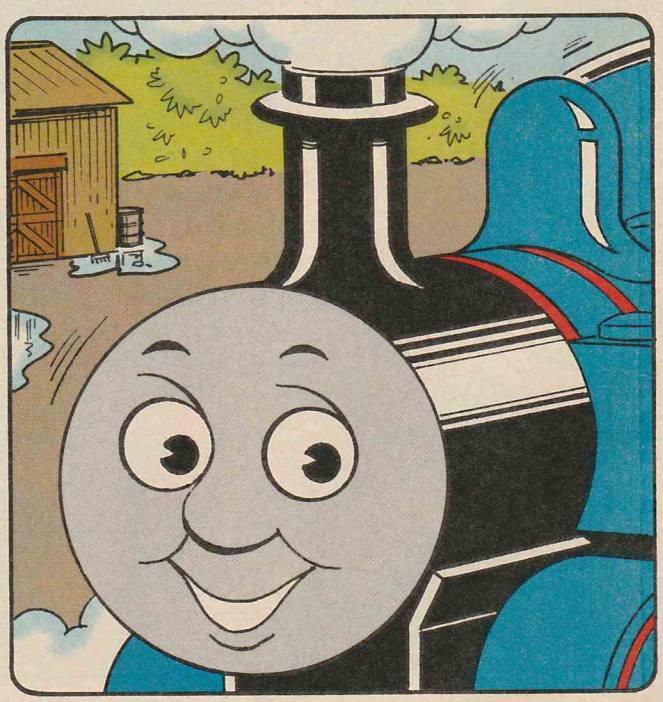


3. Stephen and Bridget came down the gangplank from the boat. They watched the film crew unloading all their equipment. The Fat Controller greeted his grandchildren.



4. "Hello, Grandfather!" said Bridget. "Isn't it exciting? They want to make a film on the Island of Sodor." The producer walked up to the Fat Controller and introduced himself.

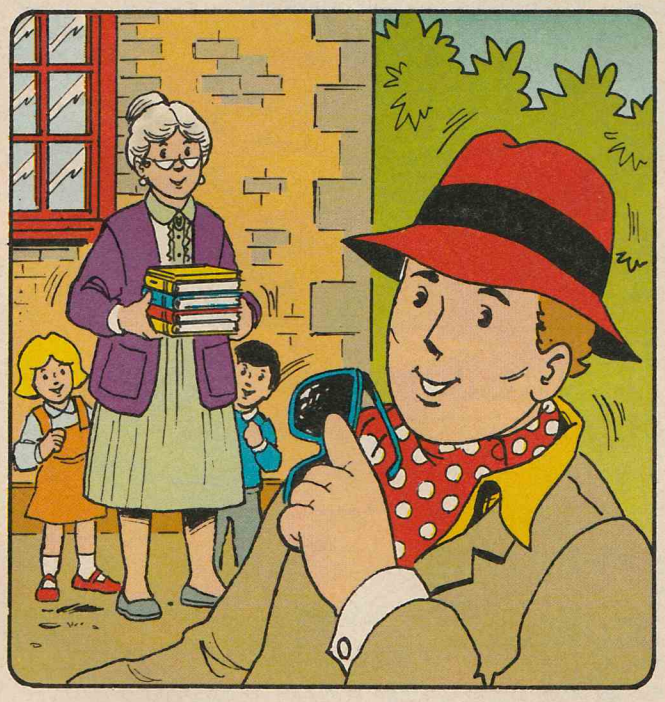
5. "I was told you run the railway!" the producer said. He explained to the Fat Controller that he needed an engine to use in his film. "Couldn't we use Thomas?" said Stephen.



6. The producer thought Thomas looked grand. "Perfect!" he cried. The Fat Controller agreed and told Thomas he was to be in the film. Thomas was very excited.

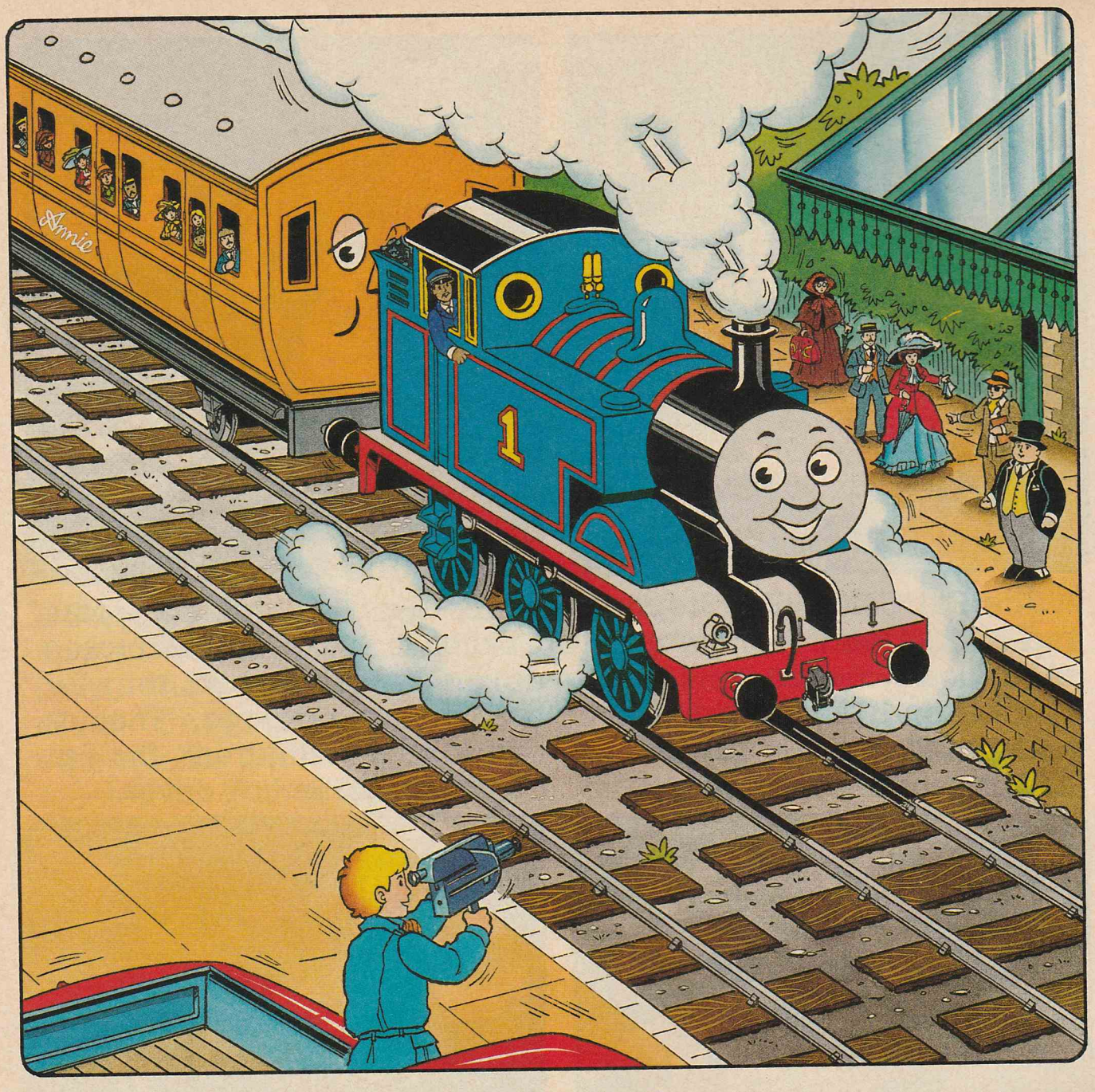
7. The Fat Controller, Stephen and Bridget and the film crew all sat down aboard Annie and Clarabel and Thomas set off for the Main Station. He saw Bertie the Bus near a level-crossing.

8. Bertie was taking some children to school. He had broken down. His driver had sent for help from the garage. "Thomas can take the children!" the Fat Controller told Bertie's driver.



9. At the school, the producer asked the children's teacher if they would be in the film too. Then he asked Stephen and Bridget. The Fat Controller thought it was a splendid idea!

10. Everything was arranged. Next day, filming began at the Main Station. Thomas had been washed and polished. He felt Really Useful. All sorts of people bustled to and fro.

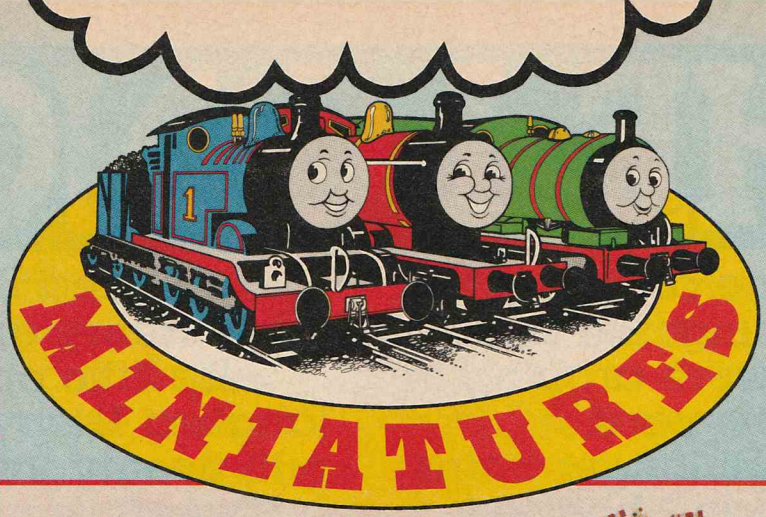


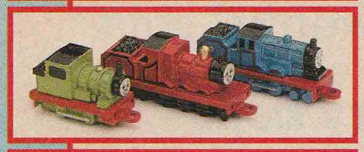
11. Thomas and the children were told what to do. The actors and actresses wore old fashioned costumes. The children did too. "Action!" shouted the producer and the cameras rolled. They filmed everyone boarding Annie and Clarabel as Thomas waited importantly at the Main Station. Thomas set off and a camera filmed him from a moving van.

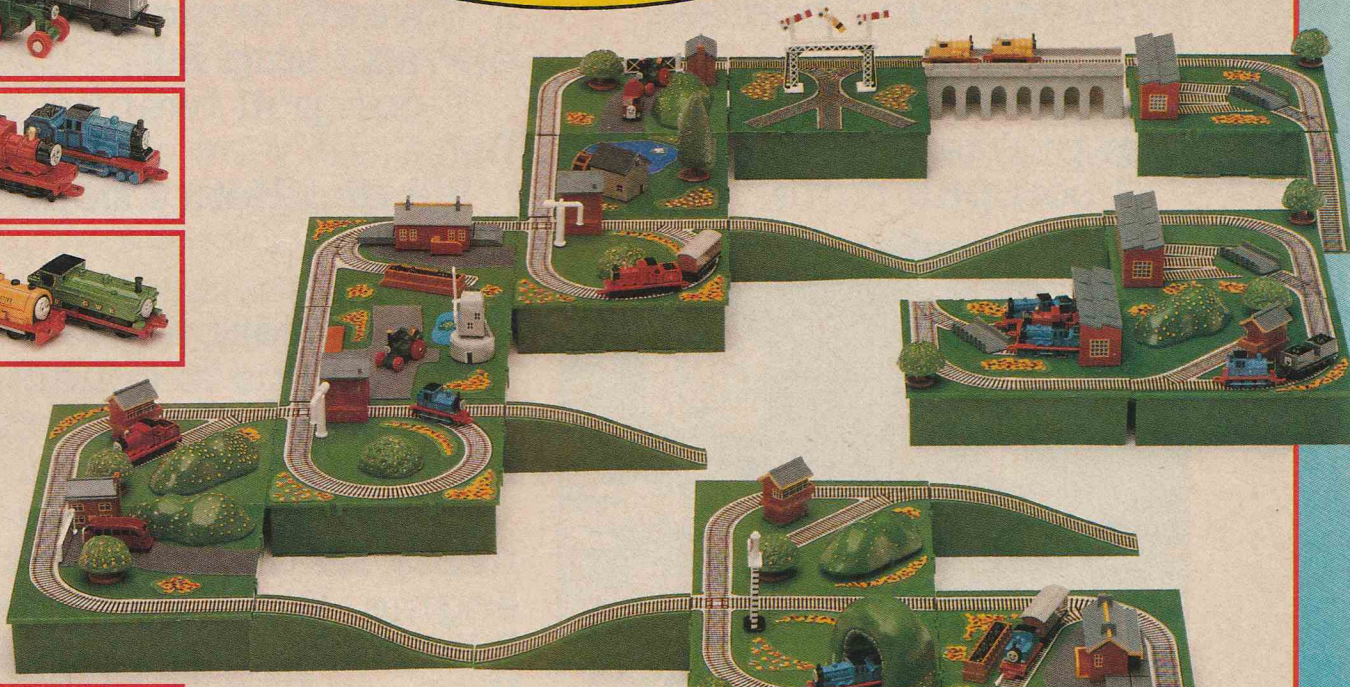
12. The film was about an engine taking families to the beach in the olden-days. Thomas puffed along the seaside line. Stephen and Bridget did not speak in the film. They were 'extra's!' Later, the producer told them they had been very helpful. "I hope people enjoy watching the film as much as we enjoyed being in it!" chuckled Thomas.

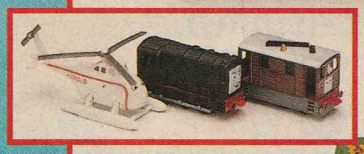
THE END!

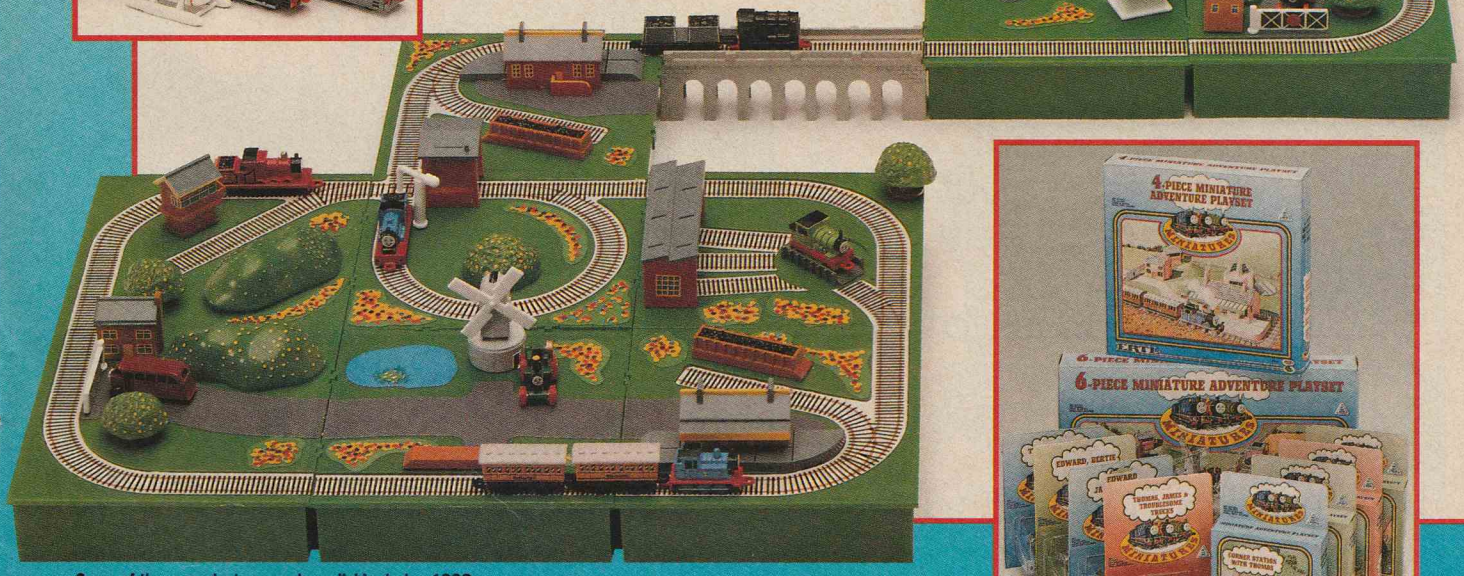
In our next issue: A task for Thomas!











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Products shown distributed in the UK by ERTL (UK) Ltd., Exeter, EX2 8RG Based on The Railway Series By the Rev. W. Awdry
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ADVERTISEMENT

THE LONGEST

One fine and sunny morning, Bill and Ben were arguing in the clay pits yard.

"I can pull longer trains than you can," boasted Ben.

"Nonsense!" said Bill. "I can pull ten trucks!"

"I can pull more," puffed Ben.

trucks

Ben asked the stationmaster to give him eleven trucks.

"Eleven is more than ten," said Ben to Bill.

Ben was very proud when he reached the Big Harbour.

"Look at me! Look at me!" he sang. "Eleven trucks! Eleven trucks!"

Then he heard a familiar sound behind him.

"Peep peep peep!" whistled Bill. "I've pulled twelve!"

Ben counted Bill's trucks while Henry arrived.

"Silly little engines," laughed Henry. "I always pull twenty trucks!"

"Twenty is more than eleven," said Bill.

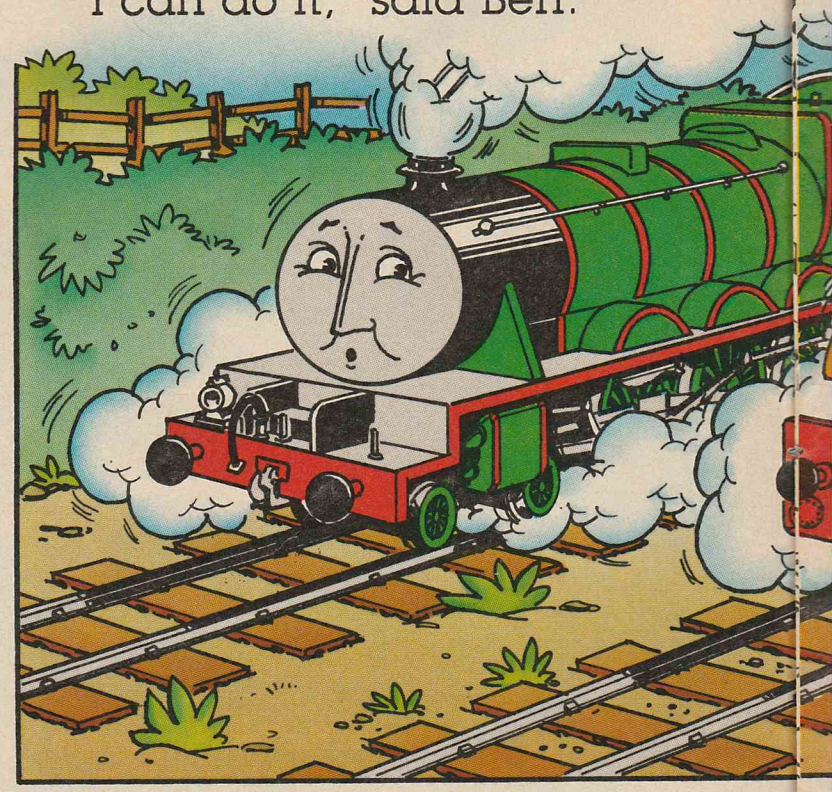
"I can pull twenty!" said Ben.

Bill and Henry both laughed.

Ben went to the sidings to collect his trucks. He collected Bill's trucks as well.

"Twenty trucks are too many for a single tank engine. Won't you need Bill to help you?" said the Harbour Stationmaster.

"I can do it," said Ben.



TRAIN

But the trucks were very heavy. Ben had to put on full steam. Slowly he pulled away, singing, "Look at me! Look at me! Twenty trucks! Twenty trucks!"

It was very hard work. When Ben reached the foot of Gordon's Hill he had to stop altogether. He simply couldn't go on.

Then Ben heard a familiar sound.

"Peep peep peep! Need a push?" called Bill from behind.

Bill pushed the trucks from behind and Ben pulled from the front. Together the two engines were soon up and over Gordon's Hill. Twenty trucks were not too heavy for two of them.

A few days later they met Henry again. "Hullo, Henry!" called Bill. "I've just pulled thirty trucks!"

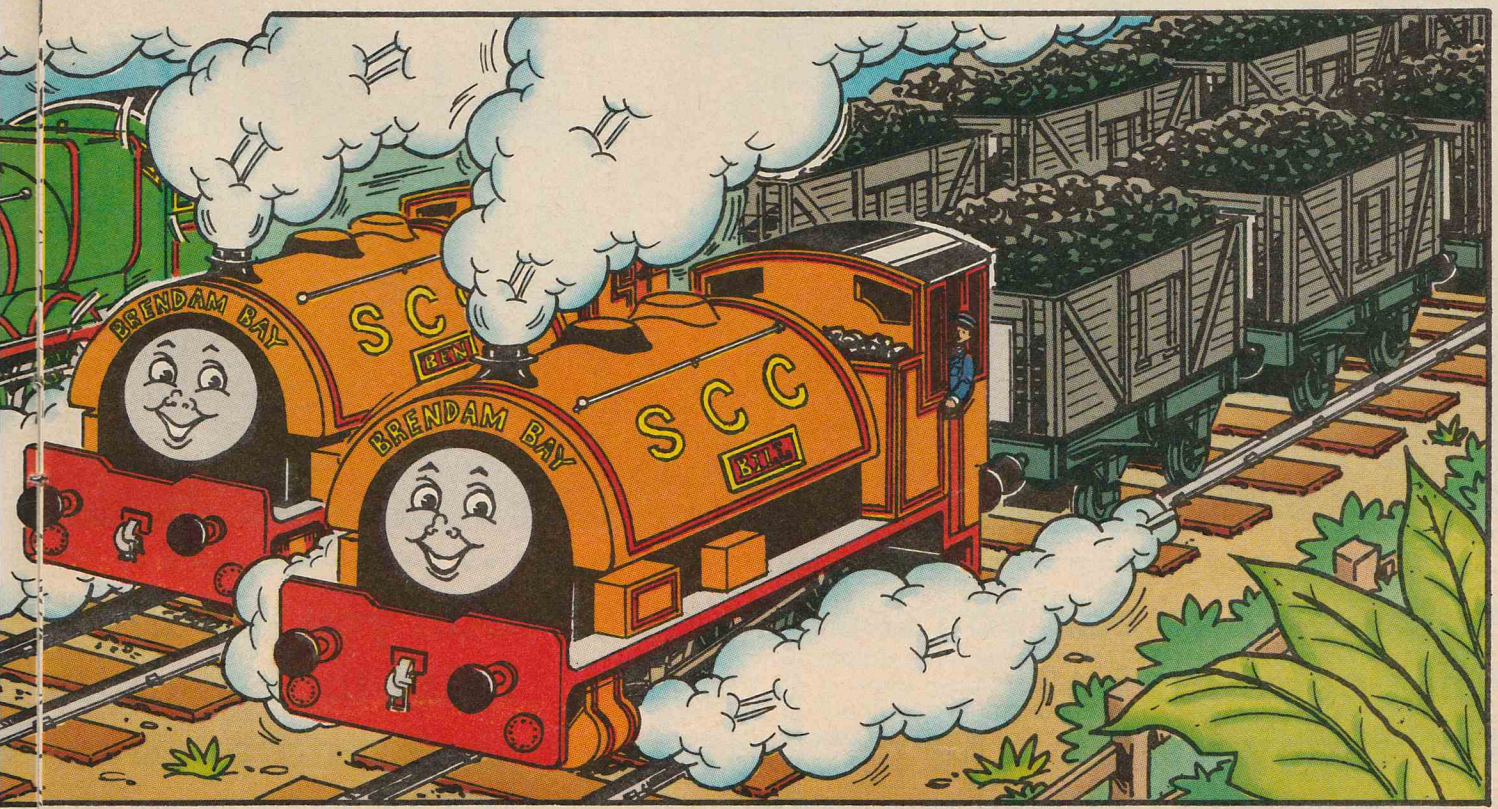
"So have I," teased Ben. "Thirty is more than twenty!"

"Nonsense!" said Henry. "Silly little tank engines can't pull more than a big tender engine like me!"

"Of course we can," laughed Bill.

"When we co-operate and pull together!" added Ben.

THE END



Past the ro

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
How many trucks is he pulling?
How many rooks can you see?

Can you see the vic
Point to the squirrel
Look at the leaves f
What colour are the

ookery!

vicar?

rrel!

es falling from the trees!

they?

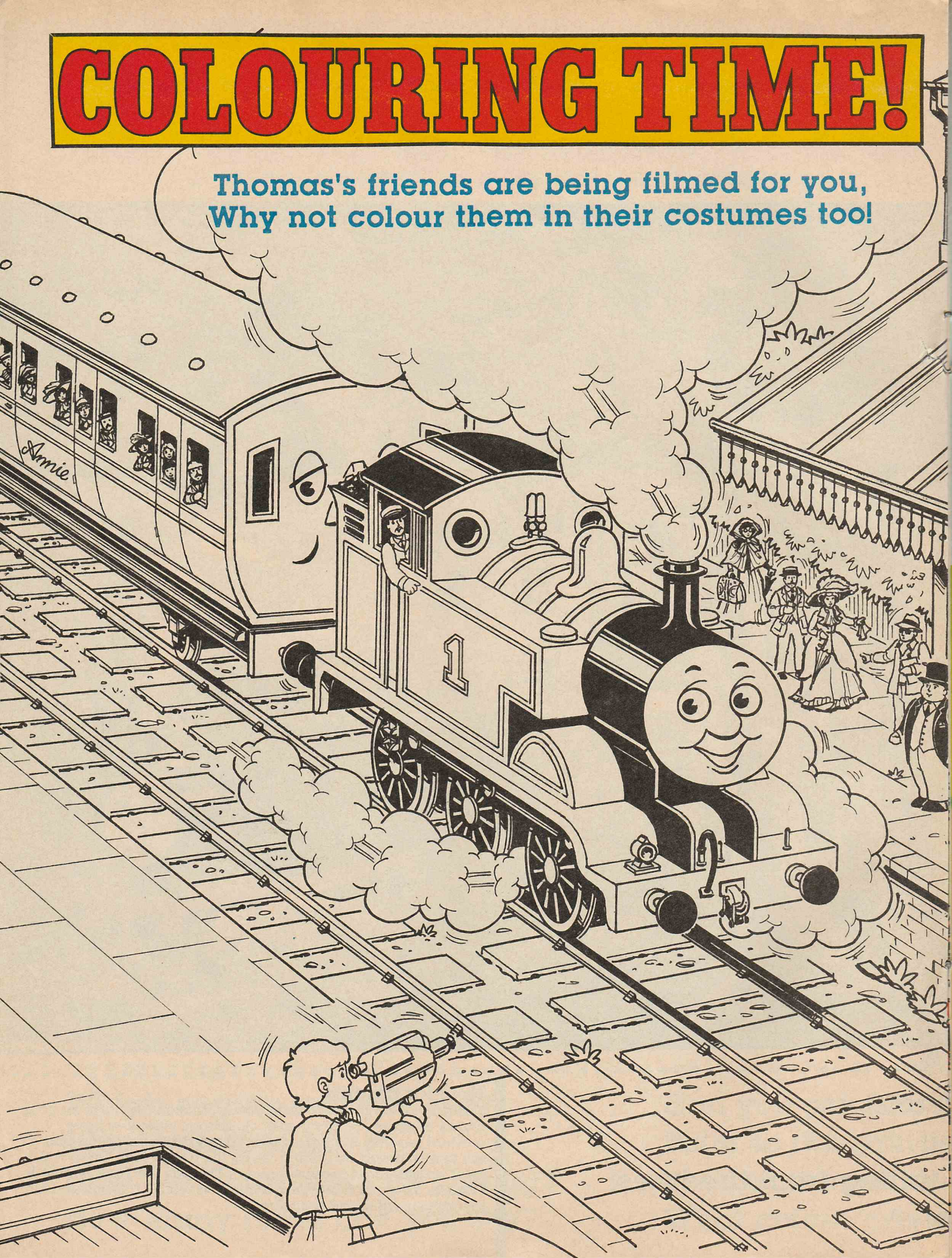
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Collecting wood for bonfire night!

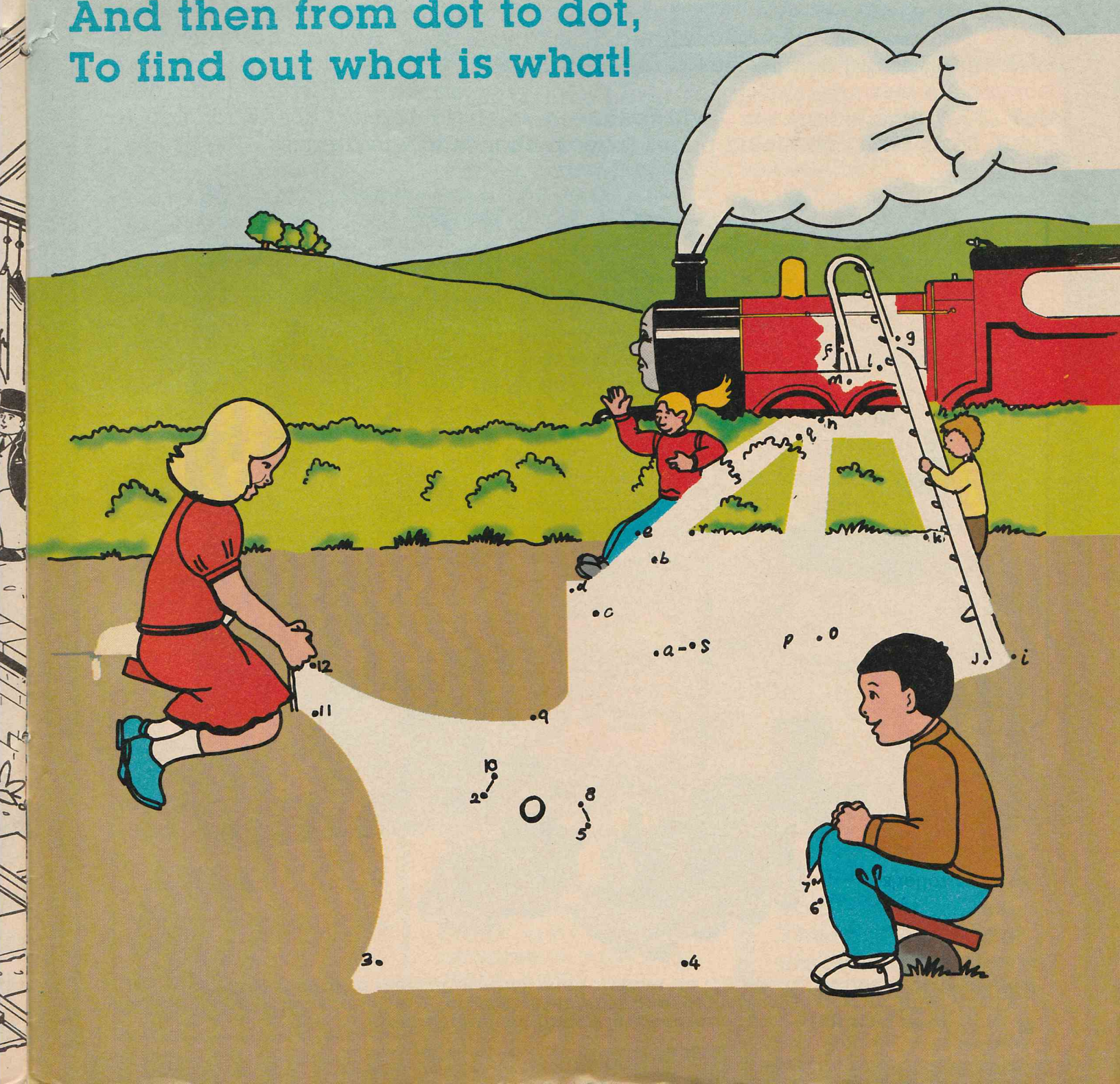
COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas's friends are being filmed for you,
Why not colour them in their costumes too!**



JOIN THE DOTS!

Fun and Games,
Here comes James!
Draw from letter to letter,
And then from dot to dot,
To find out what is what!



COMPETITION! PART No.1

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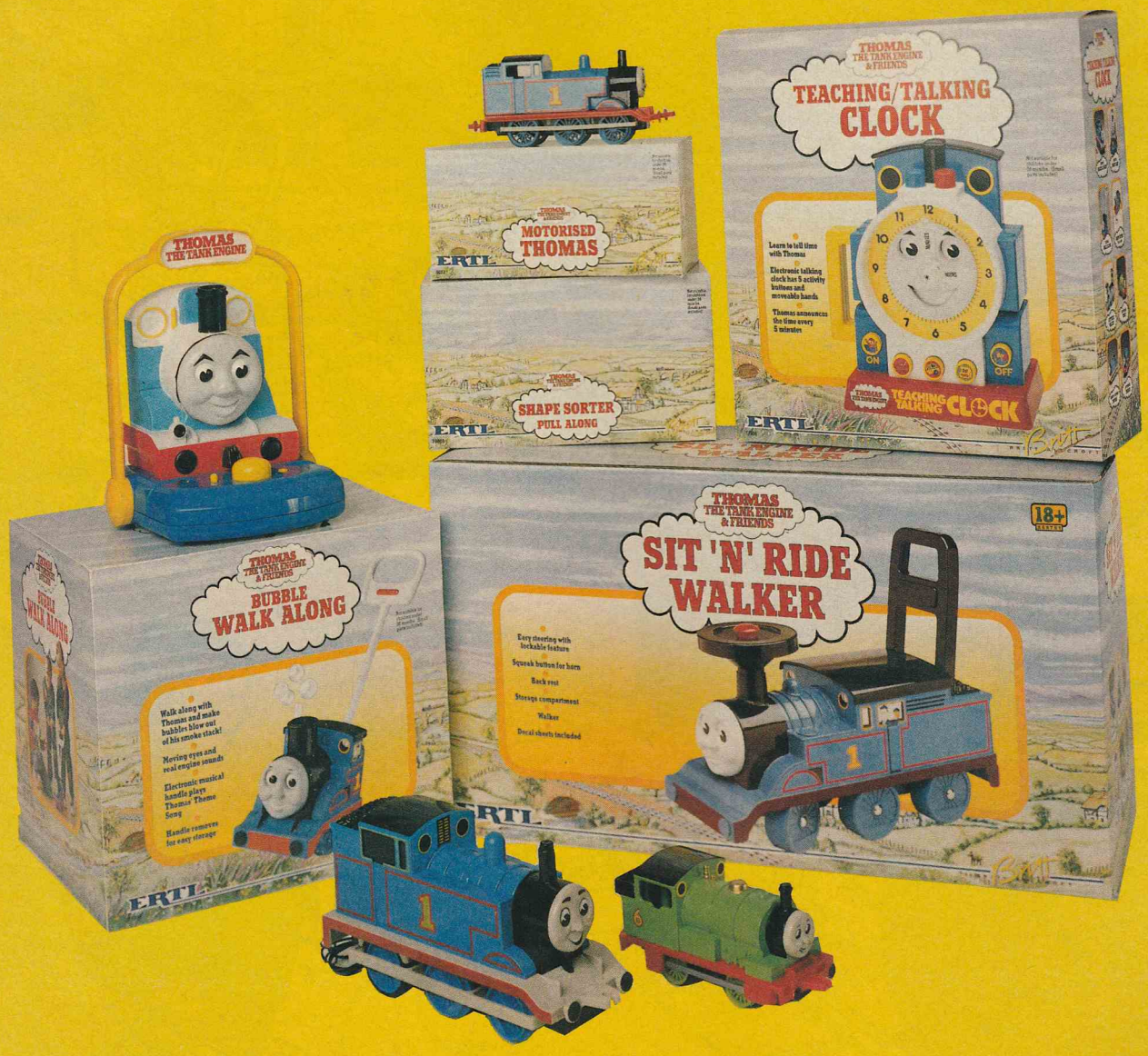
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE PRE-SCHOOL

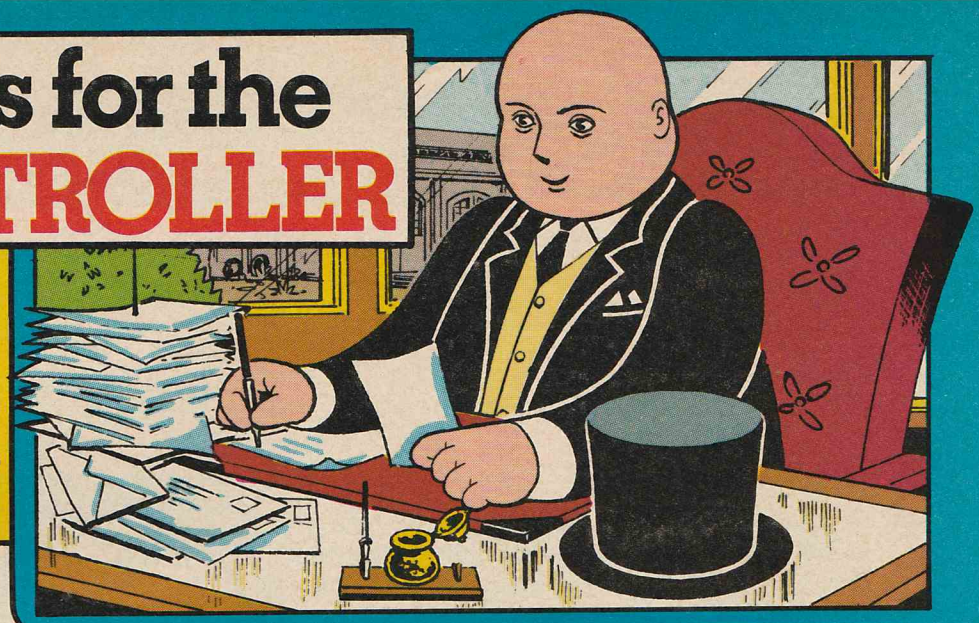
Token No.1

Don't miss your unique chance to win some fabulous prizes from a brand new range of **Pre-school toys** from ***ERTL (UK) Ltd***. Prize winners will have the chance to win one of **6 Thomas Night Lights** (featured below), **6 Thomas Bubblewalkers** (featured below) and **12 Shape Sorters!** All you have to do to enter this splendid competition is cut out this page which includes your special **Thomas the Tank Engine Pre-School Token No.1** above and wait for our next issue *(132)* where **Part No.2** will feature a splendid Thomas scene for you to colour. Send both completed pages for your chance to win a prize!



Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller, My favourite engine is Percy. My mum says I am just like Percy because I have a cheeky smile!

Love from **Mark**, aged 2!

It is true! Percy may often try to play jokes on his friends and it can get him into trouble! I must say! For a very young engine, Percy can also be very useful!

SCENIC STATION!

Dear Fat Controller, I think that **Thomas** and all his friends would like to come to the Railway Station where I live! The railway runs at the back of my garden, where I see the trains go by every day!

Love from **James** Paget, aged 2.

Yes James! I'm sure many of my engines who work on the busy branch line would enjoy puffing past your garden. It does sound like a very scenic line. My own cottage is situated near the main line on the Island of Sodor!

EFFICIENT RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller, On our holiday, we went to the **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway**. All the trains looked as though they were very well looked after!

Love from **Jacob** Linzey, aged 4.

I must say! I do approve of a railway that is well organised and I do make sure that all of my engines are always carefully maintained!

BIRTHDAY'S!

Ashley Gale (34791), Robert Murrel (32232), Lewis Cole-Scarlett, Adam Mulholland, Jouhn Osmond Naylor (29192), Nathaniel Mc Meekin, Scott Matthew Dilley (38963), Gregory Stroughair and Stephen Pinnock.

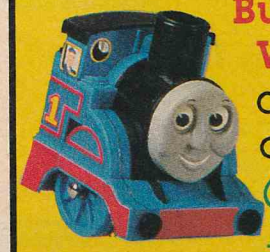
If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Bubble Walker** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



Send your letters to:

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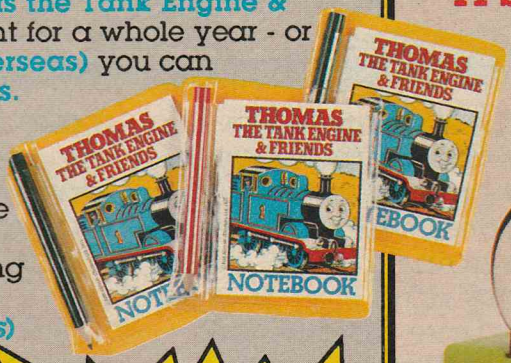
Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Percy from ERTL®

For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only) you will receive a FREE Percy diecast model plus a charming notebook and pencil *(see opposite pictures)* and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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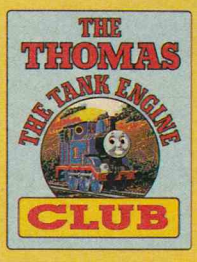

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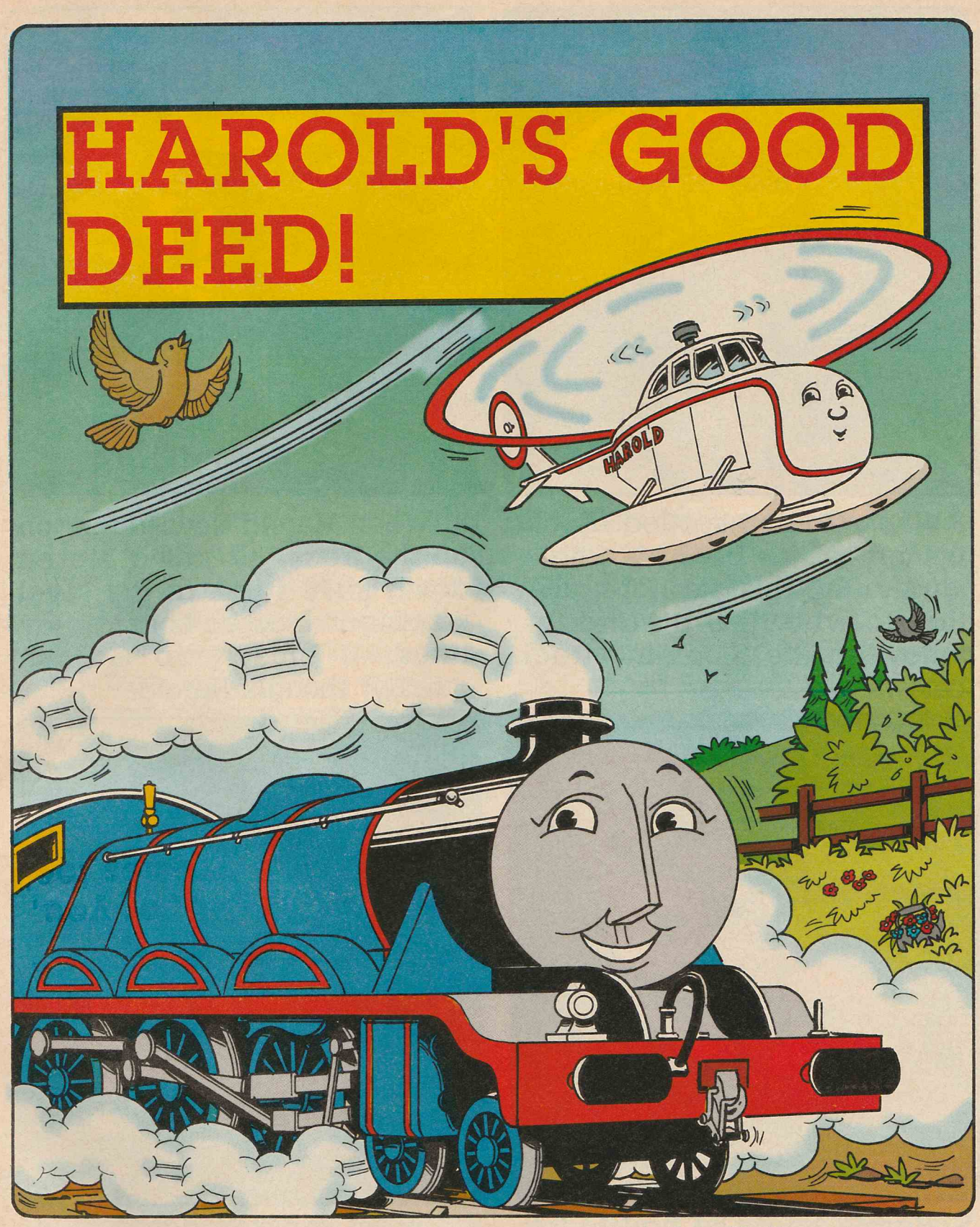
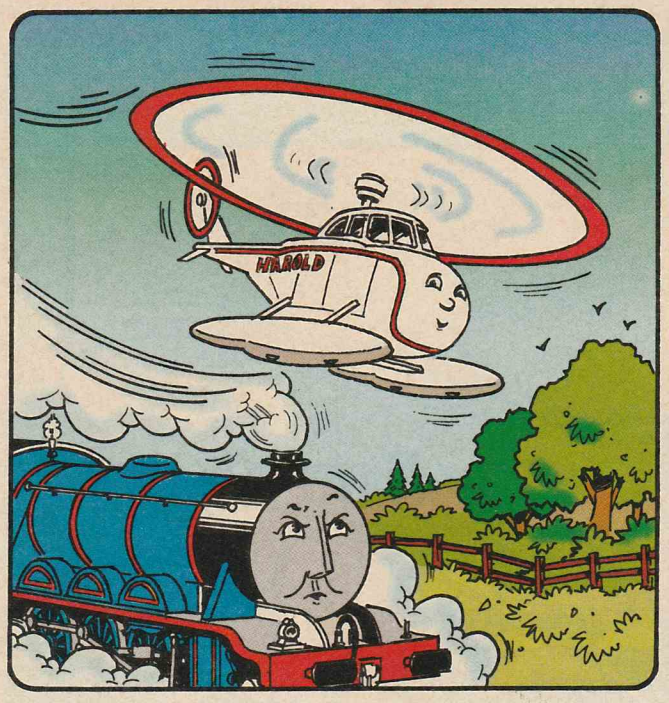
HAROLD'S GOOD DEED!

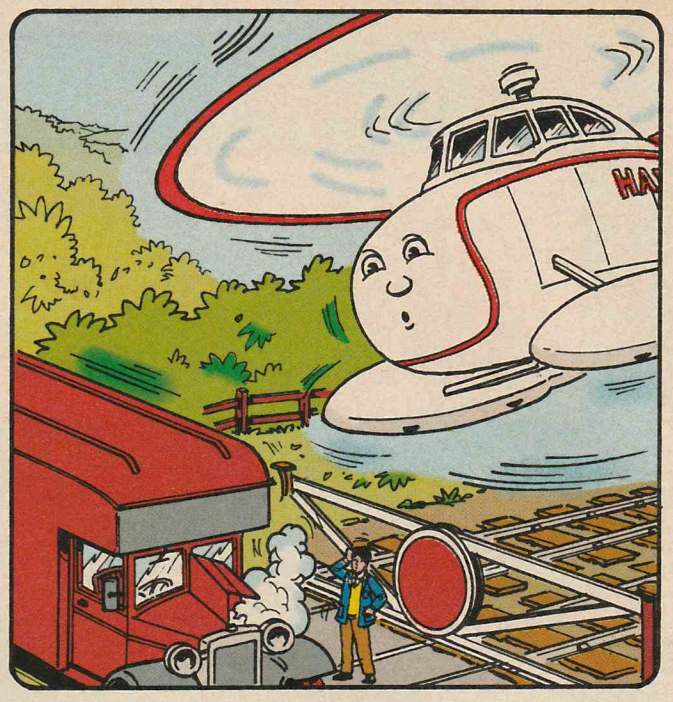


1. Gordon the Big Express Engine was having an exciting day. He enjoyed puffing along the Main line. "I am the most powerful engine!" boasted Gordon.

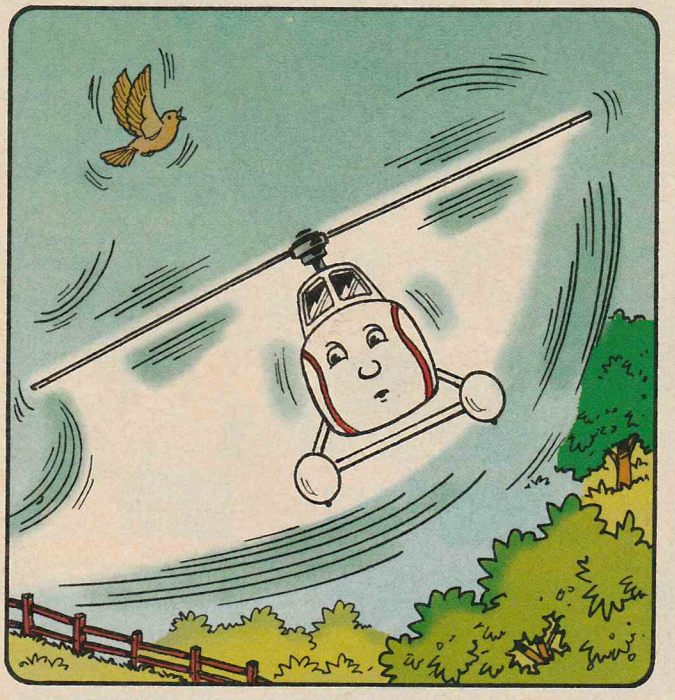
2. Harold the Helicopter saw Gordon and smiled. "Gordon might be the fastest engine on the Island of Sodor Railway, but he is not as fast as a helicopter," said Harold.



3. When Gordon spotted Harold flying past, he blew his whistle loudly. But this did not bother Harold who flew on and on, following the gleaming track below.

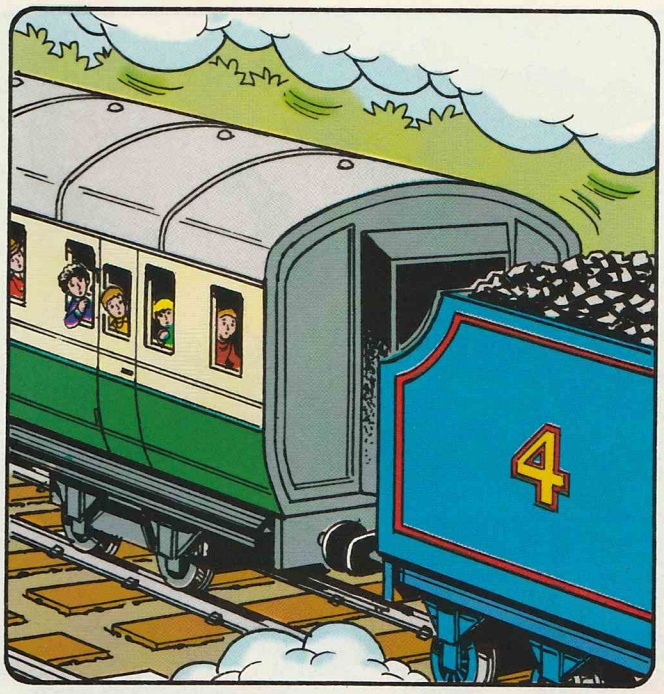


4. When Harold flew further on up the track, he saw a broken down lorry stuck at the level crossing. It blocked both railway lines. "I must stop Gordon quickly!" thought Harold.



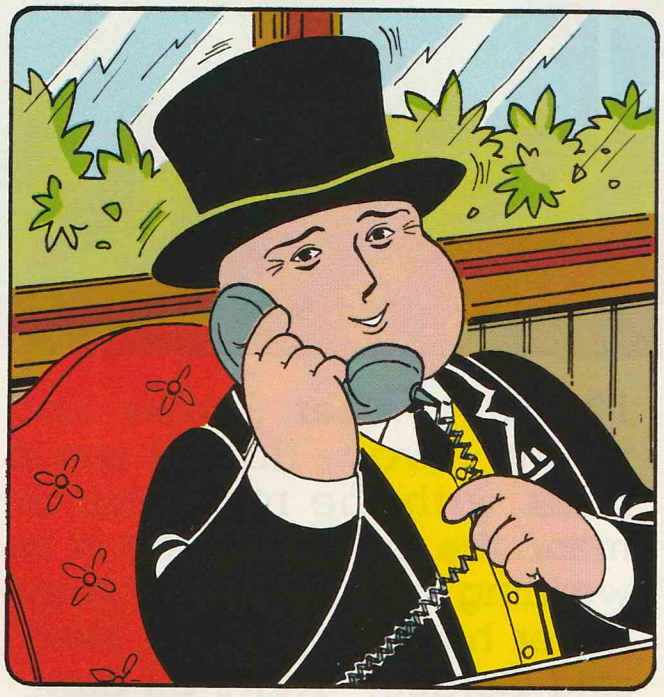
5. Harold knew he had to tell Gordon about the lorry very quickly because he was going too fast to stop at the level crossing. So he flew along the track beside Gordon.

6. "What are you doing now, Harold?" shouted Gordon's driver. "You must slow down and stop the Express," shouted Harold! Gordon's driver applied the brakes.

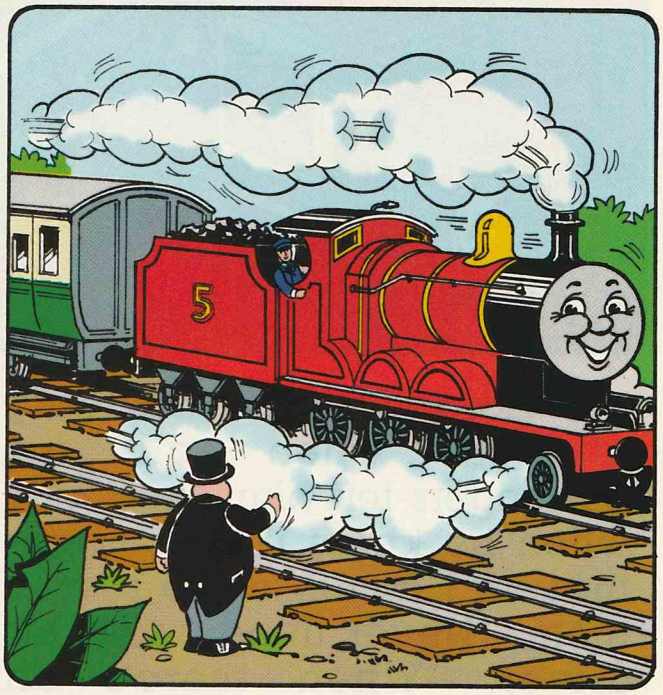


7. The Big Express shuddered to a halt. Just up ahead in front of him, was the broken down lorry. "What's going on?" called some of Gordon's passengers, from their carriages.

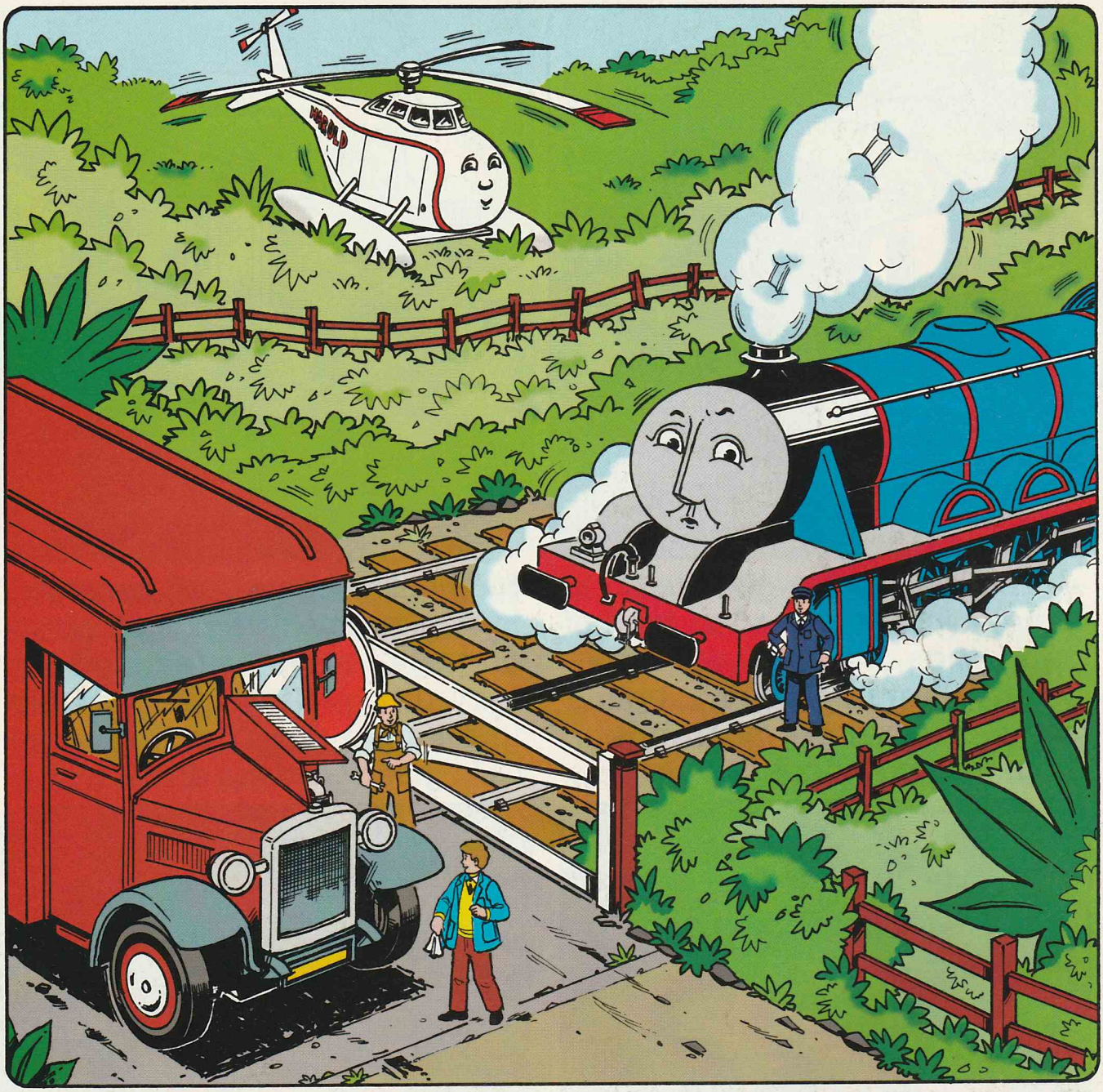
8. "Thank goodness you managed to stop in time! I've broken down and can't move," explained the lorry driver. "It was a good job that Harold came back to warn us," agreed Gordon's driver.



9. Harold flew off to fetch the mechanic, while Gordon's driver telephoned the Fat Controller. "I'll send James to pick up Gordon's passengers from the other side," said the Fat Controller.



10. "I'm off to rescue Gordon's passengers," puffed James as he left the yard. The Fat Controller asked James to pull an extra carriage. James felt very important.



11. Gordon was not very pleased when all his passengers left him. Especially when he knew it was James that had come to the rescue them. "Never mind," said his driver. "When there's an emergency, we all have to work together. We will just have to wait here until that lorry has been moved". "I suppose you're right," sighed Gordon.

12. Soon after James had pulled away, Harold came back with the mechanic to mend the lorry. "Thank you for warning me, Harold. I would never have stopped in time," said Gordon. "That's all right," said Harold. "I like to show all my friends how flying can be very useful!" Gordon was so impressed that he had to agree!

THE END!

In our next issue: Some very fine passengers!